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Construction managers will henceforth apply for the approval of the Bulgarian Investment Bank before providing any machinery or construction implements, and before commencing any part of the work.

ENCOURAGE SAVINGS DEPOSITS -- Narodno Delo, No 1669, 3 Jan 50

The government has instructed the Bulgarian National Bank to establish savings accounts for wage earners. Upon a minimum deposit of 50 leva a week, 100 leva every 2 weeks, or 200 leva a month, workers can establish term accounts for 5 or 10 years; 5-year savings accounts pay 4-percent yearly interest, and 10-year accounts pay 4½ percent yearly. The deposits are state-insured and withheld from wages until the end of the term; they are entered in special workers' savings books, which also authorize withdrawals before the end of the term.

Withdrawals may be effected in the following exceptional cases: 50 percent of the entire deposited amount may be withdrawn at marriage or childbirth; 80 percent for unemployment lasting over 15 days, illness prolonged over 3 months or a death in the family, purchase of a home, or in case of a major personal or public disaster; and 100 percent at the death or departure from the country of the depositor. Each case must be certified by the trade union committee at the depositor's place of work.

The deposit committee established at the Bulgarian National Bank solicits workers to deposit savings and open accounts at the bank.

BULGARIA TO HAVE BALANCED BUDGET -- Taegliche Rundschau, No 35, 10 Feb 50

A draft of the Bulgarian budget for 1950 has been submitted to the General Assembly. The plan is balanced and provides for revenues and expenditures amounting to 211 billion leva each.

EXTEND HOUSING LOANS -- Narodno Delo, No 1681, 18 Jan 50

The great housing shortage in Stalin is due to a number of reasons: the natural population increase from 25,250 in 1876 to 81,435 at present; the war, which put a stop to housing construction; and the development of industry, as well as the growing number of government offices and state agencies. The problem is taken into consideration by the bank law, which provides for a savings department at the Bulgarian Investment Bank to collect deposits for housing purposes and to extend loans.

Housing loans are extended to every applicant who has previously established a deposit account at the bank and complies with its provisions. They are extended for a period of up to 30 years at an interest rate of 3 percent yearly; return payments are made in monthly installments which are usually much smaller than amounts paid for rent.

After registration for a building lot, the waiting period is usually from one to 4 years; if the lot is not granted at the end of the third year, it will be assigned without fail at the next land distribution.

Applicants may also form their own housing cooperatives, consisting of eight members building their homes on the same designated block (closed cooperatives). They must open accounts at the Bulgarian Investment Bank. The people's soviets are aiding the cooperatives in securing the land and fixing the price of the construction. The next step consists of preparing the plan and carrying it out. The construction is financed by the bank, which may advance a loan even before the deposits can be withdrawn and under the following conditions: (1) the cooperative owns a building lot or has been granted one

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by the peoples' soviets; (2) the construction is based on a plan; (3) there are enough members to guarantee completion of the construction; (4) the members are entitled to a loan or have the necessary funds to make bank deposits. The advance on the loan cannot exceed 90 percent of the total sum assigned for the loan, and is extended for a 3-year term.

After completion of construction, the cooperative provides its members with legal titles, and the organization is dissolved; the titles are transferred under the apartment law.

The cooperative construction system will greatly promote better living conditions, provide quarters for the homeless, and improve and modernize the general aspect of the city.

Savings deposits and housing loans alone cannot solve the serious housing problem and satisfy the needs of the population.

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